

Dear Chairs Sollman and Evans and members of the committee,

As a correctional officer at a facility that has been short-staffed for the entire time I have worked here, I work overtime between 2-3 times a week. Some of those shifts are voluntary because I don't want to get mandated, but even volunteering for extra shifts doesn't mean that I won't get mandated.

When everyone around me at work is burnt out from the overtime crisis, it makes it extremely difficult to do my job. No one can do their job effectively after being mandated 2-3 times weekly. It leaves other burnt-out staff to pick up the slack, which causes even more issues.

It has made my home life terrible. Never knowing when I will be off work is extremely cumbersome because I have kids who need to be picked up from school and cared for. Having to rely on my spouse to take care of things I would normally be doing causes extreme tension at home.

I am stressed out all the time, not knowing how bad the mandatory OT will be for the day. My moods have been all over the place, which wasn't an issue prior to the OT crisis. Because it is affecting my mental health, my family gets to deal with me at my worst during the times when I actually get to see them. Constant overtime is wearing on my marriage and family. I do not want to lose them due to the domino effect that the overtime abuse is causing!

We are in a really bad situation right now, and the only way to fix it is to hire more staff and stop the mandates.

Spencer Short

Oregon Department of Corrections